

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:
  - receiving a request for audiovisual data from the user via a network, said audiovisual data corresponding to said request having a title;
  - determining if said title is already in a transmission schedule;
  - adding said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule;
  - encrypting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm, said encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm;
  - generating a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm;
  - forwarding said decryption key to the user via said network; and
  - transmitting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to a satellite for receipt by the user with a satellite dish, said transmitting occurring in accordance with said transmission schedule.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said network is the Internet.
3. The method of claim 1, further including if said transmission schedule is empty, adding one or more popular titles to said transmission schedule.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said one or more popular titles are determined by statistical analysis of past requests by users.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said encryption algorithm is based on the Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) standard.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the user has a set-top box coupled to said network, and a satellite dish coupled to the set-top box, wherein the set-top box contains a storage device, and wherein the method further includes:
- receiving the audiovisual data corresponding to said request using said satellite dish;
  - storing said audiovisual data corresponding to said request in said storage device; and
  - decrypting said audiovisual data using said decryption key.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the audiovisual data is a movie.
8. The method of claim 6, further including:
- sending a query from the set-top box to the operator server through the network for a list of available titles;
  - compiling a list of available titles by scanning said database; and
  - transmitting said list of available titles from the operator server to the set-top box.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein said storage device is a hard disk.

10. The method of claim 1, further including informing the user of a planned transmission time for said audiovisual data corresponding to said request.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate faster than said playing speed.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate slower than said playing speed.

13. A method for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:

- receiving a request for audiovisual data from the user via a network, said audiovisual data corresponding to said request having a title;
- determining if said title is already in a transmission schedule;
- adding said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule;
- encrypting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm, said encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm;
- generating a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm;
- forwarding said decryption key to the user via said network; and

transmitting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to said user, said transmitting occurring in accordance with said transmission schedule.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein said network is the Internet.
15. The method of claim 13, further including if said transmission schedule is empty, adding one or more popular titles to said transmission schedule.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein said one or more popular titles are determined by statistical analysis of past requests by users.
17. The method of claim 13, wherein said encryption algorithm is based on the Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) standard.
18. The method of claim 13, wherein the user has a set-top box coupled to said network, and a satellite dish coupled to the set-top box, wherein the set-top box contains a storage device, and wherein the method further includes:
  - receiving the audiovisual data corresponding to said request using said satellite dish;
  - storing said audiovisual data corresponding to said request in said storage device; and
  - decrypting said audiovisual data using said decryption key.
19. The method of claim 13, wherein the audiovisual data is a movie.

20. The method of claim 18, further including:

sending a query from the set-top box to the operator server through the network for a list of available titles;

compiling a list of available titles by scanning said database; and

transmitting said list of available titles from the operator server to the set-top box.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said storage device is a hard disk.

22. The method of claim 13, further including informing the user of a planned transmission time for said audiovisual data corresponding to said request.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate faster than said playing speed.

24. The method of claim 13, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate slower than said playing speed.

25. The method of claim 13, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data via terrestrial digital transmission.

26. The method of claim 13, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data via terrestrial digital transmission.

27. A system for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:

a database having one or more pieces of audiovisual data, each piece of audiovisual data having a title;

a transmitter coupled to said database;

an operator server coupled to a network and said database, said operator server configured to receive a request for audiovisual data having a title from the user via said network, determine if said title is already in a transmission schedule, add said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule, encrypt said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm, generate a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm, and forward said decryption key to the user via said network;

said database configured to forward said one or more pieces of audiovisual data to said transmitter according to said schedule; and

said transmitter designed to transmit audiovisual data to a satellite for receipt by the user with a satellite dish.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said network is the Internet.

29. The system of claim 27, wherein said operator server is further configured to add one or more popular titles to said transmission schedule if said transmission schedule is empty.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein said one or more popular titles are determined by statistical analysis of past requests by users.

31. The system of claim 27, wherein said encryption algorithm is based on the Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) standard.

32. The system of claim 27, further including:

a set-top box coupled to said network;

a satellite dish coupled to said set-top box, said satellite dish designed to receive said audiovisual data corresponding to said request; and

said set-top box having a storage device and configured to store said audiovisual data corresponding to said request in said storage device and decrypt said audiovisual data using said decryption key.

33. The system of claim 27, wherein the audiovisual data is a movie.

34. The system of claim 32, wherein said set top box is further configured to send a query to said operator server through said network for a list of available titles and said operator server is further configured to compile a list of available titles by scanning said database and transmit said list of available titles to said set-top box.

35. The system of claim 32, wherein said storage device is a hard disk.

36. The system of claim 27, wherein said operator server is further configured to relate a planned transmission time for said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to the user through said network

37. The system of claim 27, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said operator server is further configured to transmit said audiovisual data at a rate faster than said playing speed.

38. The system of claim 27, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said operator server is further configured to transmit said audiovisual data at a rate slower than said playing speed.

39. An apparatus for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:

means for receiving a request for audiovisual data from the user via a network, said audiovisual data corresponding to said request having a title;

means for determining if said title is already in a transmission schedule;

means for adding said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule;

means for encrypting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm, said encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm;

means for generating a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm;

means for forwarding said decryption key to the user via said network; and



means for transmitting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to a satellite for receipt by the user with a satellite dish, said transmitting occurring in accordance with said transmission schedule.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said network is the Internet.

41. The apparatus of claim 39, further including means for adding one or more popular titles to said transmission schedule if said transmission schedule is empty.

42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein said one or more popular titles are determined by statistical analysis of past requests by users.

43. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said encryption algorithm is based on the Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) standard.

44. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the user has a set-top box coupled to said network, and a satellite dish coupled to the set-top box, wherein the set-top box contains a storage device, and wherein the apparatus further includes:

means for receiving the audiovisual data corresponding to said request using said satellite dish;

means for storing said audiovisual data corresponding to said request in said storage device; and

means for decrypting said audiovisual data using said decryption key.

45. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the audiovisual data is a movie.
46. The apparatus of claim 44, further including:  
means for sending a query from the set-top box to the operator server through the network for a list of available titles;  
means for compiling a list of available titles by scanning said database; and  
means for transmitting said list of available titles from the operator server to the set-top box.
47. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said storage device is a hard disk.
48. The apparatus of claim 39, further including means for informing the user of a planned transmission time for said audiovisual data corresponding to said request.
49. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said means for transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate faster than said playing speed.
50. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein said audiovisual data corresponding to said request has a playing speed, and said means for transmitting includes transmitting said audiovisual data at a rate faster than said playing speed.

51. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:

receiving a request for audiovisual data from the user via a network, said audiovisual data corresponding to said request having a title;

determining if said title is already in a transmission schedule;

adding said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule;

encrypting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm, said encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm;

generating a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm;

forwarding said decryption key to the user via said network; and

transmitting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to a satellite for receipt by the user with a satellite dish, said transmitting occurring in accordance with said transmission schedule.

52. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for delivery of audiovisual data to a user, including:

receiving a request for audiovisual data from the user via a network, said audiovisual data corresponding to said request having a title;

determining if said title is already in a transmission schedule;

adding said title to said transmission schedule if it is not already in said transmission schedule;

encrypting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request using an encryption algorithm, said encryption algorithm having a corresponding decryption algorithm;

generating a decryption key unique to the user using said corresponding decryption algorithm;

forwarding said decryption key to the user via said network; and

transmitting said audiovisual data corresponding to said request to said user, said transmitting occurring in accordance with said transmission schedule.